

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ORONO
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 278
HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2025
DISTRICT OFFICE ASSEMBLY ROOM | 685 OLD CRYSTAL BAY RD N, LONG LAKE MN 55356

Present: Sarah Borchers, Wendy Lundsgaard, Todd Madson, Timothy Usset, Laura Wallander, Kristine Flesher

Absent: Gavin Tempero

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Orono Independent School District No. 278 was held on Monday, February 24, 2025 and called to order by Board Chair, Sarah Borchers, at 7:00 PM.

3. – Consideration of the Agenda

4. – Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Todd Madson the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- Approved Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on February 10, 2025
- Approved Correction to Minutes from the Regular Meeting held January 27, 2025
- Approved the appointment of Mackenzie Borntrager, as full-time Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher at Orono Schumann Elementary, effective February 17, 2025 through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the appointment of Carol Swenson, as full-time Long-Term Substitute at Orono High School, effective March 3, 2025 through June 6, 2025.
- Approved the change of assignment of Shelley Howell, 0.75 FTE English Language Learning Teacher at Orono Middle School and Orono High School, to 1.0 FTE English Language Learning Teacher at Orono Middle School and Orono High School, effective February 12, 2025.
- Approved the leave of absence for Mallory Purdy, full-time Special Education Teacher and Learning Coordinator at Orono High School, effective March 3, 2025.
- Approved the mobility leave of absence, according to Section 8.3 of the Master Agreement, for Shana Borgen, full-time School Counselor at Orono High School, effective beginning August 25, 2025.
- Approved the resignation of Nicholas Ruhland, part-time Special Education Paraeducator at Orono High School, effective February 17, 2025.
- Accepted Donations Totaling: \$8,388.87
- Approved the Treasurer's Report for January, 2025
- Approved the Electronic Fund Transfers for January, 2025
- Approved Amended 2025 Board Committee Appointments
- Approved Bill Vouchers: 320863-321071, EP Register: 902745-902760, EFT Voucher: 293, and Capital One Items: 53119-53148

6. – Superintendent's Report on Excellence

Dr. Flesher shared that it is Winterfest Week at the high school. One of the highlights is that high school students are "mystery readers" to classrooms at Schumann Elementary and Orono Intermediate School.

Dr. Flesher went on to share that the Varsity speech team finished 2nd with five Varsity Category champions and 1 Novice Category Champion:

- Maxwell Haugen, Great Speeches
- Maya Haugen, Storytelling
- Oliver Berg, Creative Expression
- Sebastian Pikula, Discussion
- Sophie Middleton, Extemporaneous Reading
- Adelyn Logelin, Great Speeches in the Novice Category
- six other students finished in the top 5.
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The Middle School speech team (grades 7-9) also placed 2nd at their two most recent tournaments. Placing in the top 3 were:

- Adelyn Logelin, 1st place in Great Speeches
- Maggie Kubista, 1st place in Prose Reading
- Caitlin Dahlberg, 2nd place in Extemporaneous Reading
- Valerie Kottemann, 2nd place in Great Speeches
- Audrey Robbins, 3rd place in Dramatic Interpretation
- Britta Olson, 3rd place in Extemporaneous Reading
- Makayla Ressler, 3rd place in Informative Speaking

Dr. Flesher thanked Barb Shofner, Head Speech Coach, for her leadership and encouragement of both teams.

Dr. Flesher then gave an athletics update:

Alpine Ski: Danny Kinzer finished 17th and J.T. Burns finished 35th at the State Championship.
Nordic Ski: State qualifiers Walter Holmes and Johnny DiPrima finished 3rd place in the boys' sprint relay. And Wells Huotari finished 29th and Ben Masica finished 41st in individual competition.

Girls Hockey: The team took 3rd place in a 6-2 win over Holy Angels at the State Tournament after a heartbreaking 2-1 loss in triple overtime to Warroad in the State Semifinal game. Dr. Flesher congratulated the team and coaches for an outstanding year on the ice.

Dance Jazz and Kick Teams: Both teams had impressive performances at the MSHSL State Dance Championships. Jazz finished in 2nd place and Kick finished in 3rd place.

Boys Basketball: currently ranked #2 in the Metro West conference with a record of 18-6-0.

Girls Basketball: earned the #1 seed in the upcoming Section Tournament with a record of 23-3. Junior, Mya Moore became the all-time leading scorer in Orono Girls' Basketball program history and currently has 1,900 career points.

Boys Hockey: The team advances to the Section Final game next Wednesday!

Wrestling: Brett Kiecker won the Section 2AA 114-pound Individual Title and will wrestle at the State Tournament. Three other medalists narrowly missed out on state bids:

- Anthony Schoeller - 3rd place
- Sam Hultmann - 3rd place
- Nash Erstad - 5th place

Emery Soukup will be competing in the Girls State Wrestling Tournament. The State Wrestling Tournaments are hosted at Xcel Energy Center February 28-March 1.

Swim & Dive-Boys: will compete in the Section tournament hosted at St. Catherine's University.

Dr. Flesher closed her comments with a reminder that spring sports registration is now open in MyPaymentsPlus. Paul Brunner, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, will host the Spring Activities Informational Meeting March 3 at 7pm.

7. – Board Members' Questions and Comments

Facilities & Finance Committee - Todd Madson updated the board on the committee's conversation regarding upcoming items coming before the Board. At the March 10th meeting, the committee will present a District Tax Abatement item. A Public hearing will be held at the April 13th meeting. At the May 12th meeting, the Board will evaluate bids for upcoming Facility projects.

Sarah Borchers added that the committee reviewed advertising opportunities for the Pesonen Stadium scoreboard.

Policy Committee - Timothy Usset reported that the policy committee is continuing its review process with the 400 series, seven of which will be presented in New Business.

Timothy Usset - attended the Orono Coalition meeting.

Laura Wallander - attended Meet & Confer meeting with staff and administration. Laura mentioned Community Involvement events and the recent Family Sweetheart Dance.

Todd Madson - reported that he attended the recent Wind Ensemble performance and mentioned that the Orono Foundation for Education Bash will be held soon.

Wendy Lundsgaard - attended the Meet & Confer meeting and reported that staff made a point to thank the Middle School parents who helped with a recent field trip. Ms Lundsgaard also attended the Curriculum and Accountability Council meeting.

Sarah Borchers - shared that she and Director Usset attended the recent Professional Day which featured keynote speaker Dr. Clay Cook from Character Strong. Dr. Flesher shared that Dr. Cook spoke and led staff in professional development in Tier 1 support systems within MTSS.

7. – Old Business

7. A – Policy Review (ACTION)

Dr. Flesher presented Policy 524: Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety to the board for a second reading and recommended approval.

UPON MOTION by Wendy Lundsgaard, seconded by Todd Madson, the board approved the proposed changes to Policy 524.

votes: 5 yays - zero nays - zero abstentions. The motion passed.

7. B – Other Old Business as Necessary

No other old business was brought forward.

8. – New Business

8. A – Policy Review (First Reading)

Dr. Scott Alger presented the following policies for their first reading. These policies were reviewed in committee as a part of our policy review process. The policies will be presented for a second reading at the March 10 board meeting.

1. Policy 401: Equal Employment Opportunity
2. Policy 402: Disability Nondiscrimination
3. Policy 403: Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of Employees
4. Policy 404: Employment Background Checks
5. Policy 405: Veteran's Preference
6. Policy 407: Employee Right to Know - Exposure to Hazardous Substances
7. Policy 408: Subpoena of a School District Employee

8. B – AIPAC Compliance

Dr. Aaron Ruhland, Executive Director of Learning and Accountability, Ms. Katie Yandell, AIPAC Chairperson, and Ms. Donna Ostvig, Engagement and Integration Coordinator reported to the Board regarding the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee activities and the Vote of Concurrence process. Ms. Yandell spoke of the recent committee activities & experiences. Ms. Ostvig shared about the upcoming Wellness Fair, and about the collaboration between the AIPAC committee and the Student Voice group.

8. C – Crisis Team - School Safety Procedures Update

Dr. Flesher introduced the leadership from the crisis procedures team who provided an update to the Board regarding their work for this year. Ms. Kim Van Eyll, Principal, Orono Middle School, Ms. Tiffany Clifton, Director, Community Education, Ms. Corinna Graner, Director, Special Services, Mr. Sean Beaverson, Director, Technology.

8. D – Other New Business as Necessary

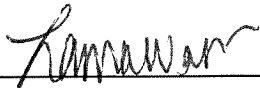
No other new business was brought forward.

The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the District Office Assembly Room.

UPON MOTION by Laura Wallander, seconded by Timothy Usset, the meeting was adjourned to a Work Session for the purpose of an Administrative Mid-Year Report at 8:13 PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah Borchers", written over a horizontal line.

Sarah Borchers, *Chair*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Wallander", written over a horizontal line.

Laura Wallander, *Clerk*